

eco-logue



Volume 39, No. 5 Winter 2009-2010

Explore, enjoy and protect the Planet

Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club P.O. Box 10518, Rochester, NY 14610; 585-234-1056

Sierra Club Outings and Events:

How To Have a "Green" Celebration

11th Annual Winter Solstice Celebration Tuesday, December 8th ♦ 5:30 to 8:30 pm Brighton Town Park Lodge - 777 Westfall Rd

Please join us for an enjoyable evening with some old or new friends.

We will provide beverages and cheese & crackers. Please bring a vegetarian dish to pass & your own place settings.

We will have two guest presenters.

Lee Loomis is the Coordinator of NYSERDAs Energy \$mart Communities program for the Finger Lakes Region. How to Save \$\$\$ and Energy in Your Home or Apartment - will be accompanied by a table-top display of NYSERDA's Residential Energy Efficiency Incentive Programs, Compact Fluorescent Lighting, LED Lighting and related energy efficiency information. NYSERDA programs provide consumers, businesses and organizations with access to energy efficiency incentives.

Margie Campaigne is our "Green Irene" Rochester representative. Green Irene is a business that focuses on finding ways to live a greener life. That can be achieved thru energy efficient lighting, general energy conservation, water conservation, indoor purity, toxic free living, and reducing your CO2 footprint.

The presentation will be very interactive-fun for kids of all ages!





Attend a unique multimedia slideshow.

Utah's threatened Redrock Country...

Please join the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) for a breathtaking journey through the famous Redrock country of Southern Utah. Presented by SUWA's National Grassroots Organizer Jackie Feinberg, Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness is a multi-media slide show featuring stunning images by noted wilderness photographers and narrated by Robert Redford.

Monday, November 16 at 7:00pm, Brighton Town Hall Auditorium 2300 Elmwood Ave. Rochester, NY For more information, contact Jackie Feinberg at jackie@suwa.org

Sponsored by the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club



Marcellus Shale -New York and Natural Gas Drilling



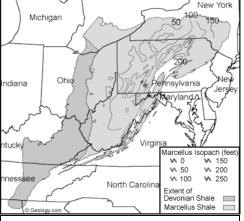
Marcellus Shale Meeting on October 19th, 2009 at the Brighton Town Hall

Natural Gas Production- What the Marcellus means to New York State.

We all know that New York State is fortunate to have an excellent supply of fresh water, from Lake Ontario to the Finger Lakes and many rivers and streams. But how many of us know that we also have a rich supply of natural gas in the Southern Tier of New York, in what geologists call the Marcellus Shale layer?

Even though oil companies have been extracting this natural gas for the last 100 years, most of it was inaccessible until the recent combination of two new techniques: horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. By using these techniques together, the oil companies are confident that they can extract this natural gas and use it to heat people's homes and cook their food in the Eastern United States. But before we do this, we should consider the following:

- Approximately 1 million gallons of water are forced deep into the ground each time a well is fractured, and there may be hundreds of wells;
- Many compounds, some of them very toxic, are used to help fracture a well; these could leak out and contaminate ground or surface water;
- Fracturing produces huge quantities of contaminated waste water; even if sewage treatment is available locally, our sewage treatment plants currently have neither the technology nor the capacity to treat this hazardous waste.
- In addition to our water supply, there will be impacts on roads, traffic patterns, noise levels, aesthetics, and air quality (including emissions from trucks, drilling equipment, compressors, and test burn-offs).
- Local business, such as farming, wineries, fishing, real estate and tourism, depend upon our excellent quality of water, air, and soil, as well as the beautiful land-scapes of the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes.



Thickness map of the Marcellus Shale. Modified after: United States Geological Survey, Open-File Report 2006-1237, Assessment of Appalachian Basin oil and gas resources: Devonian Shale-Middle and Upper Paleozoic Total Petroleum Systems, by Robert Milici and Christopher Swezey. [3]

To Learn about the impacts of drilling for natural gas in New York State visit:

- http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2009/3032/pdf/FS2009-3032.pdf
 Soeder, D.J., and Kappel, W.M., 2009, Water resources and natural gas production from the Marcellus Shale: U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 2009–3032, 6 p.
- www.shaleshock.org and www.catskillmountainkeeper.org

Marcellus Shale Action

<u>H.R. 2766 (FRAC Act)</u> will repeal the exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act. Call your representative to encourage them to support this bill. S.1215 has the same purpose. Senator Schumer 202-224-6542; Senator Gillibrand 202-224-4451. Thank them for co-sponsoring the bill.

<u>Strengthen federal Regulation</u>: Fax Lisa Jackson, Administrator at the US EPA at 202-501-1450 and encourage her to enforce existing federal laws regulating hydrofracturing.

<u>Support NY State Legislation:</u> Ask your NYS assemblyperson to support A.8784 which requires disclosure of chemicals in "fracking" fluid an dpermits for withdrawal of more than 5,000 gallons of water per day. Ask your NYS Senator to introduce companion legislation to A.8784. Thank Sen. Gillibrand for calling for an extension to the public comment Period.

Request extension of Public Comment Period to 90 days; express your concerns about water usage and road damage: Pete Grannis, Dec Commissioner 518-402-8540; Judith Enck, Deputy Secretary for the Environment 518-473-5442; Governer David A. Paterson 518-474-8390.

<u>Submit your comments to DEC before Nov 30, 2009</u>: http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/ SGEISComments/comment/index.cfm

<u>Attend a DEC Public Hearing:</u> Wed Nov 18, 2009 6pm Corning East High School Auditorium, 201 Cantigny Street, Corning, NY 14830. Other locations: http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/58705.html

City High School Class Invades the Grove by Peter Debes

There were new invaders in the forest known as "the Washington Grove" at Cobb's Hill! These invaders are excited about helping to remove other invaders. So, what is this all about?

Well, the magnificent old forest there, dominated by towering old oaks, cherry and tulip trees is being gradually crowded out by newcomers brought here from Europe to grace our streets, especially Norway maples. So a teacher at the School Without Walls, Janet Siegel, organized a class for her students to learn about invasive plants. She contacted Peter Debes, a professional naturalist and former City high school teacher. Peter is facilitator for a partnership project with the City of Rochester and the RRG of the Sierra Club. Peter met the class at Cobb's Hill, and there, students learned what makes a plant invasive, how to identify several different invasive plants in the Grove, and how to identify three kinds of native trees.



Peter Debes and School Without Walls Students in Washington Grove Park

Save the Date: Thursday, April 22, 2010 Sierra Club 12th Annual Environmental Forum

at the First Unitarian Church on Winton Rd.



Meet the Authors: Abundance -Sierra Club Book Group 62 Marshall St - 454-2667

November 19, 2009 @ 7PM: An evening with Carter Catlett Williams local author of "Glorious Adventure" readings & discussions refreshments will be available

December 10th @ 7 PM: Local author, inventor, and "Cool Rochester" Leader, Bob Siegel will talk about the book, "Vapor Trails", co-Authored by Roger Saillant. Books will be available for purchase. For more information visit:

http://www.publishersmarketplace.com/me mbers/vtrails and

http://www.vaportrailsthenovel.com/

Congratulations to Frank

Regan for being awarded the Regional W. Hartwell Volunteer Award Center for Environmental Information Community Salute to the Environment on October 19.



www.RochesterEnvironment.com

Metro Justice's

Alternative Fair

Friday, December 4th, 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Saturday, December 5, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. @ First Unitarian Church 220 South Winton Road. Suggested Donation \$3.00for ages 12+ (under 12 free), free child care for younger children. Handicapped accessible. For more info call Metro Justice at 325-2560

or visit www.metrojustice.org Sierra Club Calendars will be available!

Rochester Roots Annual Harvest Dinner

A fundraiser for Rochester Roots NOVEMBER 20TH, 2009 Guest Speaker: Samina Raja, Ph. D. Speaking About Planning & Design For **Healthy Communities** See We hope that you can join us for

this timely event and inspiring speaker. Rochester Roots, Inc.

121 N. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY 14614

Work: 585-232-1463, Cell: 585-802-

0843

E-mail: satnam4all@msn.com

Good News and Controversy From the Grove.

The Washington Grove at Cobb's Hill Park is home for 19 newly planted native trees and shrubs—thanks to the generous donation of Tay House, Troop 19 of the Boy Scouts of America. The Troop celebrated its 90th anniversary on September 12, and had heard about the **Project to Restore and Protect the Washington Grove**. Brian Eshenauer of Troop 19 contacted Peter Debes (facilitator for the Project) who, many years ago, earned the Eagle Badge while at Troop 19. The Grove was surveyed for suitable sites and the Troop was given a "wish list" of 19 plants that are not replacing themselves in the Grove or used to be more common. Troop 19 responded by purchasing all 19! On Saturday, September 12, Brian unloaded the plants and scouts and volunteers from the Project quickly settled the trees and shrubs into their chosen spots. September was a dry month and the ground was thirsty, so when a plea was made for "parents" to adopt the plants and keep them watered, a group of neighbors came to the rescue and kept them moist until the rains came. The Grove thanks all who helped.

Then, on September 22, at the Lake Riley Lodge, the City of Rochester held a public information meeting to hear about the Management Plan that had been drafted by volunteers from the Project to Restore and Protect the Washington Grove. Volunteers from the Project presented photos to demonstrate problems evident in the Grove and outlined the process by which a Management Plan was drafted. Some people in the audience complained that there was not an adequate opportunity for community participation and voice in the process. Others claimed that volunteers had commenced work in the Grove without permission. Others applauded the goals of the Project and urged the City to enforce existing laws regulating dogs and bicycles. Strong opinions were shared on both sides about the goals of the *Project*. The meeting ended with Commissioners Paul Holahan and Charles Reaves stating that the *Project* is a City sponsored one and that the City would be posting the Management Plan on its website for examination by the public. Another meeting was promised to present a reformatted Management Plan for public comment after which steps can be taken to formally approve the

If you would like to participate in the Project to Restore and Protect the Washington Grove you may contact the Assistant Director of Parks, Jim Farr or contact the Sierra Club at 585-234-1056.



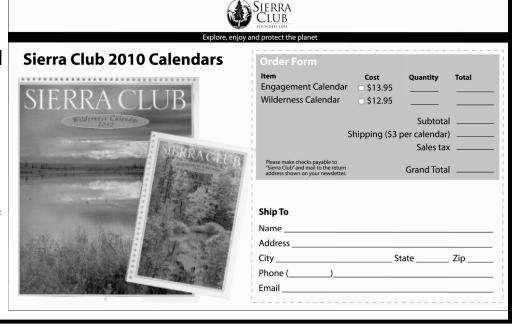
Boy Scouts from Troop 19 Planting trees at Washington Grove. Pictured are Christian Sawyer and Theo MacGowan

Buy a calendar for yourself or a friend! They make beautiful gifts that last all year long.

Please mail all orders to: Sierra Club, Calendar Sales, PO Box 10518, Rochester, NY 14610

Call 585-271-0544 if you would like to order a large quantity or if you have any questions.

Thank You for your continued support!



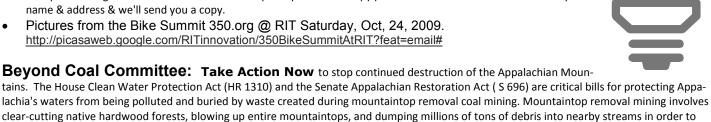
Your Local Sierra Club at Work - Committee Updates

Water Issues:

See Marcellus Shale article on pages 2. Action needed before November 30th, 2009!

Transportation Committee:

- 2009 Bicycle Maps available
 - The Genesee Tranporation Council has printed up free 2009 Bicycling Maps. The Sierra Club Rochester Regional Group is working with them to distribute the maps. If you'd like a copy please call us at 585-234-1056 & leave your name & address & we'll send you a copy.



get at coal seams that lie deep beneath the surface. Already, more than 500 mountains and 2,000 miles of Appalachian streams have been de-

Go to http://www.ilovemountains.org/pass-the-cwpa/ to send a message of your support. Or call your representatives personally to ask for their support for passage of these bills now. For more info contact Beyond Coal committee co-chairs Bette Heger 473-1529 or Paul Ciavarri 734-4866

Be Sure to watch Coal Country, premiering on Planet Green on November 14th, 2009 at 8 PM ET. It is a film that shows the real picture behind coal, which supplies half the electricity used in America, and the controversy that stems from the coal-mining. It will re-air on Planet Green on November 15 at 12pm ET, November 19 at 11pm ET, and November 20 at 3pm ET.

Global Warming & Energy Committee

stroyed by mountaintop removal mining operations.

If you've been following our Sierra Club group's news over the past year, then you know that Cool Rochester is an outgrowth of our Low Carbon Diet Challenge of 2008. Cool Rochester (www.coolrochester.org) seeks to reduce our area's carbon emissions by a billion pounds by 2012. This is significant-- about 10% of household emissions in our area! Addressing climate change is Sierra Club's number one priority.

If you are waiting for just the right opportunity, just the right nudge, to take personal action and make a difference, then join us in early 2010 for a Climate Change Café. We'll use Cool Rochester's online tools to "keep score" for our group's collective efforts, and we'll have fun with some friendly competition with other local teams. There will be a special tele-training session (online, stay at home!) for Cool Rochester participants and all interested parties on Nov. 17, 7-9 PM. For more info or to register for the tele-training, contact alison.davidson@CoolRochester.org. We'll schedule the Climate Change Café in late March/early April 2010, so as to accommodate as many interested folks as possible.

Please also join us at our Global Warming & Energy Committee meetings to help contribute to other efforts. For information or to register for the Climate Change Café, or for information on dates/locations of the Global Warming & Energy Committee meetings, leave a message on our voicemail 585-234-1056 or contact lci msw@hotmail.com.

Too busy to join a Committee? Help support our work by buying a calendar or by making a tax-deductible donation. For more info call 234-1056

Ballots

Sierra Club, Rochester Regional Group, November 2009

, brough the end of 2010 are: Peter Debes, Hugh Mitchell, Sara Rubin, Deb Mu-

ratore, Dina Stein. The Nominating Committee has proposed six Committee 2-year term (2010-2011)PLEASE VOTE! Cut out ball will be tallied at the Winter solstice Party, Dec 8.	x officers for 2010-2011. Members of the Executive
Vote for any six by checking next to name. Use any blank space Cenie Cafarelli	e to write in candidates.:
Margie Campaigne	Cut out ballot and mail by Dec. 1st to
Bette Heger	Sierra Club
Linda Isaacson-Fedele	
Robbyn McKie-Holzworth	Attention: Ballots
Robert Withers	PO Box 10518
	Rochester, NY 14610

From the Chair by Deb Muratore I am part of nature.

According to Wikipedia, Nature, in the broadest sense, is equivalent to the natural world. "Nature" refers to the phenomena of the physical world & also to life in general. It ranges in scale from the subatomic to the cosmic. "Nature" may refer to the general realm of various types of living plants & animals & to the processes associated with inanimate objects such as the weather & the geology of the Earth and the matter & energy of which all these things are composed. It is often taken to mean the natural environment or wilderness, wild animals, rocks, forest, beaches & in general those things that have not been substantially altered by human intervention or which persist despite human intervention. Humans are also part of & share an interconnectedness with nature. There is a harmony in nature that moves in us & in the stars. My breath is that of the rose & of you.

"Thank You" to:

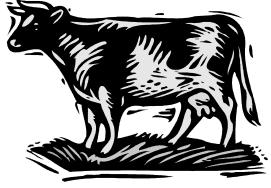
- The Bio/Veg Outreach Committee in conjunction with the Rochester Area Vegetarian Society RAVS) for hosting author, George Eisman on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009. You will find an article from him on page 6.
- The Fall Festival on Saturday, October 3rd, 2009. Great Presentation & wonderful hike! Great Pizza when you could get it! (We're working on it!) Thank You Larry, Peter and the rest of the crew!
- Kit McGurn for coming to Rochester to present "Chill the Drills" on October 20th, 2009 at the Brighton Town Park. Visit the following website to sign the Sierra Club Artic petition at: https://secure2.convio.net/sierra/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=123
- The Transportation Committee for being part of 350.org Bike summit at RIT on International Climate Day, October 24th, 2009.

George Eisman's Handout from Impact of Diet on Climate Change:

Article from "Natural Awakenings" Magazine: Lots More Reasons to Eat Less Meat

Strictly speaking, the term "meat-eating environmentalist" is oxymoronic. Editors at World Watch report that "The human appetite for animal flesh is a driving force behind virtually every category of environmental damage now threatening the human future – deforestation, erosion, fresh water scarcity, air and water pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, social injustice, destabilization of communities, and the spread of disease." Worldwide meat consumption is at an all-time high. It quadrupled in the past 50 years and will double again by 2050 unless we change how we eat.

Cows, more than cars, are the primary offender behind global warming. According to a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization report, cattle emit 18% of greenhouse gasses, more than all transportation combined. Add in other common livestock, and more than a third of all raw materials and fossil fuels consumed in the United States are used in animal production.



University of Chicago geophysicists conclude that switching from a "standard American diet" [S.A.D.] to a vegetarian menu "does more to fight global warming than switching from a gas guzzling SUV to a fuel-efficient hybrid." Of course, we can do both. Scientists point out that being a vegetarian is like driving a mid-sized car instead of a gas hog, and a vegan diet is the equivalent of riding a bicycle or walking. It's a fact. Not eating meat is the single most important thing we can do to save the planet.

Every vegetarian saves an acre of trees each year, literally protecting "the lungs of the Earth." World Watch estimates that one 400-calorie hamburger patty chews up 55 square feet of tropical forest, former home to 165 pounds of native plant and animal life. Forty percent of Central America's rainforest has been cleared for cattle pasture in the past 40 years. Likewise, "cattle ranchers are making mincemeat out of Brazil's Amazon rainforests," reports the Center

for International Forestry Research. Vegfam calculates that a 10-acre farm can support 60 people growing soybeans, 24 growing wheat, 10 growing corn, or two producing cattle.

Vegetarian Resource Group nutrition counselors say that humans need to consume just 2-10% of daily calories as protein. Alternative sources include potatoes, whole wheat bread, [brown] rice, broccoli, spinach, almonds, peas, chickpeas, peanut butter, tofu, soymilk, lentils and kale.

Information from the co-sponsored George Eisman's talk with the Sierra Club in September 2009. See http://ravs.enviroweb.org/ for more information.

The year ahead for the RRG Sierra Club

The Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club is a local volunteer organization that consists of people who care very deeply for their environment.

We love clean air, water, land and want to explore, enjoy and protect the local environment. We want you to think about joining us in our pursuit of these goals.

We are currently looking for a variety of people to help us make 2010 a great year for the club. We are seeking help for the following:

- Newsletter Mailings: Help 4 times a year to put labels on the newsletters. Typically this is 2 hours each
- Marketing Help: One person to write press releases for upcoming events and one person to help contact local media.

- Program Coordinator: Do you like to help plan parties? Have a topic that you would love to see covered? If these things sound good to you, call us at This may be just the thing you can help us with.. No experience required.
- Secretary: Record meeting minutes the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- We are also seeking ideas for programs, outings and hikes that you would like to participate in.

It's a great way to meet like minded members. Call 585-234-1056 & leave your name & phone number or e-mail: deb.muratore@hotmail.com - please list volunteering in the subject line.

Snow + Cold = Icicles?

By Margie Campaigne Remember looking around your community last year when it was snowy and cold? You saw some homes and buildings had a lot of icicles hanging off the roof and gutters. Others had none or very few. What is the difference? If a home or building has lots icicles it means that enough heat from inside is escaping via the roof, windows, etc. to melt the snow that had collected. The melted snow runs down to the edge of the roof and the gutter, meets with cold air again, and refreezes into those pesky frozen fingers of ice. You may recall a few years ago that when we had a lot of snow combined with very cold weather, many people had ice damage that needed to be repaired. Roofers were extremely busy the next spring.

Instead of buying heat tape for gutters and roofs, and just knocking off icicles after they form, you can *prevent* ice damage, wasted heat, plus higher heating bills by insulating. Each home and building will have its own unique insulation remedy. Some people will be able to install the insulation needed themselves, and others will need to hire a con-

tractor. When we have cold, snowy weather, you can prepare for the work to be done by going out and taking photos all around your home, focusing on any problem areas. These will help you and/or a contractor to pinpoint and identify areas that need specific attention when warm weather returns and you are ready to insulate. Or schedule the work BEFORE winter hits. Energy auditors and contractors often have infrared cameras that can show exactly where heat is being lost.

There IS help available to homeowners, renters, landlords, businesses, farmers, and municipalities alike. Call 1-866-NYSERDA, or see www.nyserda.org (New York State Energy Research & Development Authority). The next step is to get an energy audit from a qualified, certified professional. They will do a thorough inspection, take various measurements, and recommend the type and scope of work indicated by their findings. Based on your needs, budget, and preferences, you then choose the work you want to have done, after you've been shown the approximate payback periods for different items. You might choose to replace some old energy hogs with new Energy Star appliances, too. The contractors handle any paper-



Heat loss thru a roof can cost you a lot of money and trouble.

work to qualify for incentive programs like grants and low-interest loans.

Personally, back in 2006, I had almost everything done to my 1950's era home in the city that was recommended by the energy audit. I collected, from RG&E's website, my energy use numbers for the year preceding and the year following the work done. I was amazed by the results! My gas use went down by 25%, and my electric use went down by 44%. By my estimate, that savings nearly covers my loan payment, and when it's paid off, the rest is money in my pocket, and energy savings for as long as I own my home. If you are curious about more details, see my ecowebsite, www.Project-HOUSE.us (Household Opportunity to Upgrade & Save the Environment), and click on the "Survey Results" tab, then scroll to the bottom of the page.



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Buy a 2010 Sierra Club calendar and support your local club!

All committees are local volunteer groups of the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club

Date	Day of Week	Time	Calendar/Event	Place
Nov 16, 2009	Monday	7:00 pm	Utah's Threatened Redrock Country	Brighton Town Hall Auditorium (See Page 1)
Nov 17, 2009	Tues.	7-9 pm	Great Lakes Committee Meeting	12 Corners Middle School (1)
Nov 17, 2009	Tues.	7:30 pm	Wetlands Committee Meeting	call for directions 442 6890
Dec 1, 2009	Tues.	6:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Harro East Bldg., Suite 600
Dec 8, 2009	Tuesday	5:30-8:30	Winter Solstice Celebration	Brighton Town Park (see pg 1)
Dec 15, 2009	Tues.	7:30 pm	Wetlands Committee Meeting	call for directions 442 6890
Dec 22, 2009	Tues.	7-9 pm	Great Lakes Committee Meeting	12 Corners Middle School (1)
Jan 5, 2010	Tues.	6:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Harro East Bldg., Suite 600
Jan 19, 2010	Tues.	7:30 pm	Wetlands Committee Meeting	call for directions 442 6890
Jan 26, 2010	Tues.	7-9 pm	Great Lakes Committee Meeting	12 Corners Middle School (1)
Feb 2, 2010	Tues.	6:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Harro East Bldg., Suite 600
Feb 16, 2010	Tues.	7:30 pm	Wetlands Committee Meeting	call for directions 442 6890
Feb 23, 2010	Tues.	7-9 pm	Great Lakes Committee Meeting	12 Corners Middle School (1)

Global Warming Committee: Check website for latest information or email lci_msw@hotmail.com or leave msg on our voice mail.

(1): Great Lakes Committee Meetings: 12 Corners Middle School, 2643 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618, Library on 2nd floor. All Executive Committee Meetings are open to the public. Call 234-1056 for information.

Visit our website at http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/
Stay informed by joining our Google Groups email list on our website: Subscribe to Rochester Regional Group
Join our new Linkedin Group - Sierra Club Rochester Regional Group at http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2114771

Eco-Logue is synching up with the Seasons and will be now be published 4 times a year. Next copy deadline is February 2nd, 2010.